



FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF PS 11 PTA
General Meeting
January 22, 2014 9:00 AM
Meeting Agenda

Meeting called to order: 9:10

December's minutes approved.

Special Topic: Potential New Middle School at 75 Morton Street.

Speakers: Guest Speakers Jane Kim (75 Morton Community Alliance parent leader and PS 41 parent) and Jeannine Kiely (CB2 and 75 Morton Task Force member). Kim and Kiely brought parents up-to-date on the development of a new middle school in our area.

Location: The school, which is not yet open, is currently referred to by its address—75 Morton. (It is located across the street from PS3, two blocks off of Christopher Street.)

Status: The process of developing it began in 2007. Closing on the property is now imminent, and the goal is for it to open in 2016. (There might be a push to find a space to “incubate” the school in 2015.)

Specs: The space is 177,000 sq ft, seven stories, and handicapped accessible. The current goal for student number is 700.

Parent representatives: Parent representatives are currently needed to attend meetings geared toward shaping the goals, set-up and focus of the school as it evolves.

Principal's Report (Bob Bender)

New Chancellor. We're excited about our new chancellor (despite her call on the snow day).

Math Coach. We've decided to part ways with Nicki Newton, the math tutor brought in to help coach our teachers and elevate the math curriculum. She was not prepared for the level of teaching and planning the teachers had already done. We will continue math professional development, but will do it ourselves, in house. We are looking for another coach for next year who can push us farther.

Annie. It's coming up Feb 7th and 8th. Friday night's show will start at 6:30. We've added a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. Please invite your neighbors, relatives and friends to ensure that these kids play to full audiences.

Dance. The 3rd and 4th graders dance will start dance residencies soon. The kindergarteners are finishing up education in dance, and families will get invites for the last class soon.

Science. The Wonderhut Science collaboration is going great. Science Fair is just around the corner.

Testing. We're in testing season. Testing for the G&T is going on, as well as predictive benchmark testing for the 3,4, and 5th grade. Then we'll be into state testing exams. The Curriculum Connection in March will be all about the state testing.

Portfolios. They'll come home soon. Please don't request a meeting with your teacher unless you have a serious issue you want to discuss. If you have a question, it can likely be answered via a phone call. Promotion in doubt letters will also be sent home with portfolios. They just mean that, in January, your child is not meeting benchmarks. If you get one of these letters, you will also be scheduled for a conference. More of these letters go home to 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade families, because they also reflect test scores. Don't panic. In some cases children are meeting benchmarks, but may not have tested well.

Parent Coordinator's Report (Stephen McGill)

PreK and Kindergarten applications for 2014. The application for kindergarten is now online at the DOE website. It started Jan. 13 and will go until Feb. 14th. If you have neighbors and friends who are planning to start their children at PS11 in the fall and may not have that information, please let them know. The PreK application process starts March 3rd and runs to April 1.

Yearbook. We're looking for people to help out with that. You should be receiving an email from your class parent about it soon.

SLT Report (Ben Caldwell)

CEP. The Comprehensive Education Plan has been approved. It should be up online on the website very soon.

Science Fair. It's coming up on Jan. 29th. It will start at 6:30, and will not offer food or child care. Kids should attend with their parents.

Curriculum Connection. The February one will be on note taking skills. The March one will be on state testing.

Translation. Our website is now fully translated thanks to Google. But probably not that well (thanks to Google). There is a link online for someone who needs a really good translation.

Parent surveys. They will be sent out in March.

Playground padding. We're working on new mats/padding under the playground equipment, but the funding is not available at this time. We're still working on it.

School Zone Sign. There's been an issue in the a.m. with bikers in the area not paying attention to school buses as they're discharging passengers. We do not currently have a School Zone sign on our block. We're working on getting one.

Architecture Night. March 19th. Children will recreate the city from recycled material in the cafeteria.

Fundraising Report (Sarah Frankfurt)

Annual fund. It's over 200k and we're only at 42% participation so far. Amazon has made \$7,500, which is already an improvement over last year's \$6,000.

Comedy for a Cause. Feb. 11th. We have Charity Buzz auction with high ticket items that will go live on January 28 and run through Feb 14th. (www.charitybuzz.com/ps11) There will also be a raffle, with prizes like a Red Door spa package and an iPad mini. Tickets can be bought online or at Family Friday

Auction/Gala (Scott Coscia and Larry Mills)

Location. The Gala is moving from Chelsea Piers to Hudson Terrace, a location offered to us by a Kindergarten parent. Ticket prices will likely go down to \$50 for early purchase, because to allow more families to attend. There's room for 800 people in this venue, so the more participation—by friends and extended family, as well—the better. We will have an expansion of the silent auction, with email alerts to bidding via phone. There are two levels in this location. The downstairs will have the auction, upstairs will have drinking and dancing. To save money, we're looking for a bakery or restaurant to donate desserts. Please let us know if you have any connections.

Auction. We're adding a few things. Last year we had a wine pull—you gave money and took a bottle. This year we're doing that with restaurant gift certificates. We're asking restaurants that used to provide food to the event to provide gift certificates, instead. If you have connections in city with friends, family or places you frequent, or know people who are chefs, we need donations.

Camp donations. We are looking to get more camps involved. Last year about 20 camps donated. The goal is to get 40 camps to participate this year. We're looking at doing a separate camp based auction. If you went to camp or send your kids to camp, let us know.

Corporations. This venue offers corporate sponsorship. Tables. Signage. Matching. If you work for or have relationships with corporations in this neighborhood, let us know.

Online donations. There are many companies that offer donations if you're willing to go on their sites and fill out paperwork. We are looking for people who have time to do this.

Personalized donation letters. There's a letter on the website that you can personalize and print, if you want to solicit anyone you have a connection with.

Volunteers Report (Rachel Glube and Lynn Bonds)

Coin drive. It's been kicked off. Now we need a few hands to help out on Mondays and Fridays, from 8:30 to 10 a.m. through Feb. 7th, to collect coins and bring them to TD bank.

100th day of School. Feb. 13th is the hundredth day of school event. We need help for the activities during the day. The activities run from 9 -2, the shifts are two hours.

K and G Valentine. We need volunteers to help out from 9 to 11 a.m. on Feb. 14th making deliveries to classrooms.

Annie. We need parents to help out backstage on Feb 6th,7th.

We also need people to bake and to work the bake sale before the performances, during intermission and afterward.

BoxTop counting. On Feb. 27th we need volunteers to help count BoxTops for the BoxTop competition.

Parent survey. An email is going to go out with a survey to assess volunteer interests/availability for upcoming events. Ps11volunteer@gmail.com.

Sub-Committee Reports

Lost and Found. Please label your child's items with their first and last name, so that we have an easier time getting items back to them.

Lego robotics. Our two all rookie teams did great on Saturday. There's a junior FLL competition coming up on February 1. There will be a reminder on the Facebook page.

Young artists. An email with the names of lottery winners will go home soon. There will be about 200 kids in the program. We did lose one teacher during Friday lunch, so we need another one. There is a wish list on Amazon for needed supplies. PS11 parents have donated gallery space for the show on May 18th at the Morgan Lehman Gallery.

Library. The kids have checked out about 7,500 books to date. The library is totally volunteer run and needs new volunteers. Next year we will need someone to take over running it.

Meeting Adjourned at 10 a.m.